

# Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/21/2020 09:47 AM	Education Working Group	Ms A.P. Dillon	The U.S. Dept. of Education said on March 20 that they will accept waivers from states to forgo national standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. Given that NC schools may not convene again for this school year, will the legislature move to waive end of course and end of grade exams this year? If so, the A-F scoring of schools will have a problem, as those test scores inform the school's overall score. What will be done to compensate for that?
03/23/2020 07:59 AM	Education Working Group	Keith Baker	As the father of a high school senior, wouldn't it make more sense to quarantine/shelter-in-place those who fall into risk categories rather than have a blanket order? The numbers are showing that many more show simple, flu-like symptoms (or no symptoms at all) vs. those who become gravely ill because of underlying health issues or advanced age. Herd immunity will be delayed the longer that businesses and schools are held hostage. Also, the tighter and more restrictive the guidelines are, the shorter time authorities will be able to contain the movements of people. Loosen the grip.
03/23/2020 02:53 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Jennifer De La Jara	Please call an emergency sessions to confirm how the State will be paying hourly public schools workers and to set the calendar planning on a return date of May 18th. Local school districts need to know how to pay their employees and we all need to know if you will be extending the school year. This also affects summer school/literacy programs which are uncertain right now if they will be open/run.
03/23/2020 11:40 PM	Education Working Group	Rebecca Mullis	Please consider a Shelter in Place order to help slow the spread of Covid 19 in order to keep our healthcare system from collapsing.
03/23/2020 11:47 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Rohini Sivamanivedhachalam	Please order shelter in place and protect us
03/24/2020 08:44 AM	Education Working Group	Covid-19 shelter in place Robin Mitchelll	Please put in a shelter in place mandate!
03/24/2020 09:54 AM	Education Working Group	Janet Jennings	Dear Representatives: Please consider funding measures to protect and compensate school teachers, staff, and administrators so that children can return to a supportive and thriving public school system. Our children deserve the best learning experiences possible in order to build a better future for our state and world. Also please pass the budget, including teacher pay for masters degrees!  Thank you!
03/24/2020 11:09 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Andria Sullivan	Please enact a shelter in place
03/24/2020 02:04 PM	Education Working Group	Miss Milissa Freer	Our small daycare is still operating so people can work from home. This is putting us at risk and our families we go home to for no reason. This is not essential! These parents could still work from home but insist its easier to get work done without their children there. Non-essential daycares like ours worh less than 30 children attending should be ordered to close.
03/24/2020 11:39 PM	Education Working Group	William Smith	Secondary classes in closed districts in NC should move to pass fail for the Spring semester.
03/25/2020 08:40 AM	Education Working	Laura Gosnell	I am writing today to ask you to waive the requirement for homeschool students to

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	Group		<p>complete an end of the year assessment as required by state law.</p> <p>It may seem that homeschooling has not been effected by the COVID-19 shutdowns, but that is simply not true. Many of the components we use to educate our children such as co-ops, enrichment activities, tutoring, and the library have either been cancelled or dramatically restructured.</p> <p>In addition many of us, including my family, choose to do in person assessments that would require us to break social distance protocol to complete, if we can even find a proctor willing to risk themselves.</p> <p>These tests also cost money. Many of us, including myself, find ourselves laid off from the jobs that often fund our homeschool.</p> <p>When the general assembly considers canceling exams for public school students, please remember this effects homeschool students as well.</p>
03/25/2020 08:55 AM	Education Working Group		<p>How will you make sure that the \$50 million that is going to the teachers is not going into their teacher's union as a slush fund for political activity?</p> <p>How will you account for the money being spent?</p>
03/25/2020 10:01 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Joy Beshears	<p>We home school our son and are required by the state of NC to give yearly achievement tests. I have some concern over the handling of tests, as they are shipped from the triangle area of NC . I have considered a computerized test, but my son is not familiar with computers yet, and this, I feel, would not be a fair format. He requires extra time to test, so paper tests are most suited for our needs. There is an in-person test given by an administrator, but this is not advised given the necessary meeting with another individual. In addition, we are self-employed. Due to COVID-19 our sales are down 75%. We will be struggling to pay bills as it is, without the further expense of purchasing tests, which cost \$40-\$100. We are also caring for a family member dying of cancer. Therefore, the emotional and financial tolls of this, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, are quite distressing. I urge you to consider these things and make a decision regarding the state requirements for testing in home schools and private schools. Is this really a time to add undue stress on our children and families? I think not.</p> <p>Kind regards, Joy Beshears</p>
03/25/2020 10:21 AM	Education Working Group	NC Digital Kids Library Lisa Martin	<p>Dear Speaker Moore and Members of the Coronavirus Response Committee,</p> <p>On behalf of the NC Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) members, thank you for your leadership and service on the House Coronavirus response committee. To that end, I offer some information about a resource that will be helpful to K-12 students across the state who are at home for an extended period.</p> <p>In 2017, the NCPLDA launched the NC Kids Digital Library, which provides access to children's e-books, e-audio books and video primarily for children in K-4th grades. Working with Overdrive, we were able to secure permission for the first digital library in the United States available to children statewide. This was made possible through funding provided by the General Assembly. Non-recurring support provided in FY18 and FY19 enabled</p>

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			<p>NCPLDA to build and maintain the collection. The FY2020 budget included a \$200,000 recurring appropriation for NC Kids Digital Library, as well as an increase to State Aid for Public Libraries. Unfortunately, because the budget was not passed, NC Kids Digital Library went unfunded and overall library funding remained flat. NCPLDA has sustained the NC Kids Digital Library permanent collection of one copy-one user titles, but a number of simultaneous-unlimited access contracts that ensure every child has access have expired. NCPLDA has also been unable to provide access to new content offered by publishers due to limited funds.</p> <p>Due to the Coronavirus school closure, public libraries across the state have received calls from school systems asking about access to NC Kids Digital Library and requesting that NCPLDA not only add additional fiction titles, but include non-fiction to help support at home schooling.</p> <p>With this week's announcement that schools will remain closed through May 15th, NCPLDA wants to make sure that children have access to content that they need. The NC Kids Digital Library is already positioned to help meet reading needs across the state if additional funding can be secured. Many county libraries have provided the digital access through school partnerships using student ID numbers. For school systems that did not already have partnerships in place, local libraries are offering temporary digital access cards for students to use.</p> <p>NCPLDA expects to see public library/school partnerships grow next year, especially if access to needed content is secured. Digital content is not cheap. Securing access to a digital library with a vast collection of materials can be challenging for individual school systems. NCPLDA has received permission from publishers to provide statewide access; thus, the simultaneous use purchases made can save thousands of dollars for individual schools, counties and the state.</p> <p>While the ratified budget contains an appropriation of \$200,000 recurring for the NC Kids Digital Library, an increase to \$400,000 would allow NCPLDA to renew expired contracts, meet holds requests and metered usage demands AND expand the collection to include additional simultaneous use and single use non-fiction resources that are being requested by school districts.</p> <p>NCPLDA is preparing carts so when funding is received, orders can be expedited and NCPLDA can have the additional materials ready within 24-48 hours. Steve Potash, CEO/ President of Overdrive (digital content provider for libraries and schools) is also working to secure temporary extensions on a few key simultaneous access contracts, which is extremely helpful for now. NCPLDA is working diligently to ensure that North Carolina school children do not experience the biggest "summer reading slide" ever; however, funding is critical!</p> <p>Thank you for considering this request. Now, more than ever, schools and libraries can work together to better leverage resources and expands the impact of state funds.</p> <p>Please let me know if you need additional information.</p>

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			<p>Best regards,</p> <p>Lisa Martin lisa@cap-ad.com 919-880-2955</p>
03/25/2020 10:52 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Lauren Acome	<p>I am contacting you with concerns about state testing for the 2019-2020 school year during the Covid-19 crisis. It is imperative that the General Assembly approves the State Board of Education's waiver to eliminate all state testing this year. As a public school Administrator and a parent of four children who attend public school in North Carolina, I firmly believe that it is not in our students' best interest to take a state assessment. Although I feel strongly that state testing only reveals the socioeconomic inequities across the state, I am even more passionate about it this year. It is both unjust and inequitable to continue with state testing for the 2019-2020 school year. We are currently working to support and educate students and families who are more worried about where their next meal is going to come from or how they are to complete online learning without internet at home. I have watched teachers across the state come together to provide resources for students to continue their education during a time of uncertainty. They are working tirelessly to support the whole-child. I am asking you to do what is in the best interest of our students and to demonstrate your respect for our public school teachers by approving the waiver for all state testing.</p>
03/25/2020 11:01 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Emily Brown	<p>I'm sure others will say this as well, but I'd like to take this opportunity to add my voice. Standardized testing should be canceled not only because there's a strong chance we won't be back in school and any data gleaned after missing 2+ months of solid teaching/learning will be biased and inaccurate, but more importantly because it's cruel to put that kind of pressure on our students and families at this time; right now everyone's first priority should be focusing on staying safe and healthy, and doing what we can to support those saving lives, not thinking about standards. In a life-and-death crisis like our country is currently facing, we need to take a hard look at our priorities and put student safety and well-being above all else.</p> <p>Thank you for your time!</p>
03/25/2020 12:51 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Nancy Oakley	<p>No one is cleaning the voter rolls. I have a neighbor who died 7 years ago and he is still on the records.</p>
03/25/2020 12:58 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Lindsay Mahaffey	<p>Please provide calendar flexibility for schools. Please waive testing requirements and teacher observation requirements. Please extend deadlines on LEAs spending for the academic year. Please ensure staff gets paid despite schools being closed.</p>
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